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.....
 If thou in truth can say: "I have a friend."
 Let faithful love that faithful heart defend;
 Even as a beggar goeth thou through the land—
 Rich art thou with a friend at thy command!
 And tho' the crown of kings press on thy brow,
 And friendless art, yet desolate art thou!
 —King Ludwig.

THE SOVEREIGN BALLOT.

Today the still, small voice of the American ballot speaks its decrees. No citizen is so poor, so ignorant or so malicious that this sacred privilege is denied him.

It is spread like a mantle over the American nation falling in equal power on the high and low, the weakling and the sage, the rascal and the saint, the thoughtless and the judicious.

It brings all men to a common level for an instant, but they instantly dissolve that association and go their way again to the highest and lowest planes of human activity.

Dr. Andrew D. White, former American minister to Russia, says that Russia more highly prizes the ballot than do Americans because Russia only vouchsafes this priceless privilege to the educated, wealthy and enlightened few who are capable of exercising it intelligently and thoughtfully, while in America it is indiscriminately bestowed upon the vicious and the low, the mercenary and the uneducated—and worst of all, upon the nondescript horde of new found foreigners who do not comprehend its meaning nor its power.

There is something startling in this revelation and yet how dare America restrict the ballot? How dare she draw the line where the ballot, that full, free, voluntary expression of sovereign citizenship, shall cease, except to prescribe longer residence and more familiarity for foreigners?

Education and popular enlightenment must lift the citizen up to the high level of the ballot. The man must be bettered by high ideals rather than that the ballot be restricted to the few. The many must be made fit to exercise it. The public school, the press, the electrifying currents of enlightened public sentiment must enlarge and elevate the individual voter, until there will be no peril in the ballot, although bestowed upon every citizen of this government.

And this education, this purification of the ballot must begin at the top and not at the bottom. The first chastisement for the abuse of the ballot should be given to those whose business is to buy and use the ballots of others. They are the most culpable criminals because they have greater responsibility and a greater share in the conduct of the government, for good or evil.

"Better morals" says the Mormon "never hurt any town." There is a dash of the practical in every sentiment and every institution of the Mormon. He does not foster many of the gentle vices, where he has the authority. Until after the Gentle ascendancy in Ogden, there was not a saloon in the heart of the city. They were relegated to the back streets where they could not flaunt themselves before people not looking for such institutions. If a man wanted a saloon he could find it by going to the saloon district. The public main street, where the women, children and general public were forced to go, were free from them. The result of this policy was that living expenses were cheaper in Ogden 15 years ago than they are today. Because of the 400 per cent profit in a glass of whiskey, the saloon business is enabled to pay \$100 per month for an 18-foot corner on Main street, thus forcing up rents

on merchants who do not make one-half such profits on their investments, but who are forced to sell high in order to meet high rents, thus throwing the burden at last upon the poor devil who runs a grocery bill and supports a family. The saloon business in this way is the direct cause of higher living expenses. It is a plain question of economics that needs no further comment.

By a strange necromancy of politics 3,000,000 Jews, Protestants and Free Masons hold the reins of power over 35,000,000 Catholics in France. This 3,000,000 diplomats actually sway the people by popular feeling and sentiment until France, the strongest Catholic country in Europe, except Italy, is bitterly anti-Catholic and is passing laws every day in the chamber of deputies opposed to the rule of the people. It is the strangest complication of politics in the world. The people are devoutly religious, and simple in their honest beliefs, and yet by the power of eloquence and strategy, the most bitterly anti-religionists rule the country, with the full consent and sympathy of the masses. The state pays the priesthood in France and through this vital decree the state, which is composed principally of Jews, Free Masons and Protestants, holds the Catholic people in loyalty to its designs in opposition to the Catholic.

The presidential election over, the next event for Oregon is the session of the legislature. What does Umatilla county desire? What does Pendleton want? Now is the time to discuss and arrange the program. Has the appointive system of choosing the city marshal and recorder proved to be a success? Has the city been benefited by this method? Is the service as good and the offices filled to the satisfaction of the people, by this method? These are not delicate matters that must be spoken in a whisper. They are part of the city's business and every man is interested and every man should ask himself all these questions and answer them fearlessly. Has the test of this system for the past four years been sufficient to satisfy the taxpayers and voters? Shall the system be continued or shall it be changed to give the people a vote? It is time to speak.

INGERSOLL AND "BEN HUR."

Frank G. Carpenter, writing in the Sunday Oregonian, of an interview between General Lew Wallace, author of "Ben Hur," and Robert G. Ingersoll, in which General Wallace admits that Ingersoll changed the entire plan and sentiment of that famous novel, says:

"The conversation here took a literary turn, and I asked the general if there was any truth in the intimation that certain words of Robert G. Ingersoll had caused him to write 'Ben Hur.'"

"No," he said, "Bob Ingersoll had nothing to do with beginning 'Ben Hur,' but a talk I had with him had considerable influence upon the story. I may say it caused me to change the whole plan and nature of it. The talk occurred as we were going home from the Cincinnati convention at which Bob Ingersoll had made his great speech nominating Blaine, one of the greatest speeches of our history and of all time. Ingersoll and I left Cincinnati on the same sleeping car. He had the drawing room. I was sitting talking with some men, when he came to the door in his nightgown and said: 'Is that you, General Wallace? Won't you come into my room; I want to talk.' 'I went to the door, and there stopped, saying: 'I will come in, general, but only on one condition, and that is that I am to fix the topic of conversation.'"

"All right," said Ingersoll, "What is your text?"

"The answer came quick; 'I don't know; do you?'"

"Is there a heaven?"

"I don't know; do you?"

"Is there a hell?"

"I don't know; do you?" was again the reply.

"Was Jesus Christ the Son of God?"

"I don't know; do you?" said Ingersoll in the same tone.

"Well, those are the topics I want you to discuss," said I.

"Ingersoll thereupon began to speak. He went over the whole question of the Bible, of the immortality

of the soul, of the divinity of God and of heaven and hell. He vomited forth ideas and arguments, like an intellectual volcano, overwhelming my soul with them.

"He kept this up all the way to Indianapolis, and the result was that when I left the train there, I walked the streets for an hour to quiet myself before going to bed. Prior to that I had paid almost no attention to the Bible or religion. My life had been full and I had overlooked matters of the soul.

"I then decided that these were the great questions for man to study, and also that every man must investigate them for himself. I began at once to read the Bible, devoting my time chiefly to the New Testament and the life and sayings of Christ. I did not pay much attention to the Apostles nor the Gospels, but I did try to study Christ and his works.

"The result was that I came to believe in the Bible. I gave up all doubt of the existence of a God, and that fact is as firmly settled in my mind as the fact of my own existence. I came also to believe in Christ as the best embodiment of the Divine Spirit in man and to accept him as my model. This study caused me to remodel my plan of 'Ben Hur.' I changed it throughout, and the whole of the book, with the exception of the first chapter, was, you may say, influenced by my talk with Ingersoll."

A BEAUTY HINT.

One night when the heavens were perfectly still
 And Mars had gone out for a spat,
 Miss Earth and Miss Venus, as dear girls will do,
 Sat down for a sisterly chat.

"My love," murmured Venus, "you're looking quite old,
 Such wrinkles you have on your face!
 That longitude line, and that latitude bar
 Have left quite a terrible trace.

"Now just look at me, I don't worry at all,
 'Twas care, you recall, killed the cat;
 And I don't get wrinkles, and crow's feet, and such,
 To simply find where I am at."

—McLandburgh Wilson, in New York Sun.

A PARABLE OF TODAY.

A woman lost two little charms, the joint gift of God and a good man. She hunted long for them. She searched in parlor, in ball room, and in theater. She crowded men from the great, grand buildings where they earned their bread and hunted there for her lost jewels. She did things that made the world take a quick little breath and then call her a "good fellow." But she found them not. Weary and worn she went back to the beginning, and there, in kitchen and nursery, she found the two "white stones," and written on one was "happiness" and on the other "love." —Chicago Record-Herald.

GIRLHOOD WOMANHOOD MOTHERHOOD

The first lesson that the young girl has of womanhood is usually a painful one. She learns to know what headache means, and backache, and sometimes is sadly borne down by this new experience of life. All the pain and misery which young girls commonly experience at such a time may be avoided, and the new life prevented or cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It establishes regularity. It tones up the general health, and cures headache, backache, nervousness and other consequences of womanly weakness or disease.

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